(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to develop tourist infrastructure in these pilgrim centres in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The National Tourism Policy announced in the year 2002 envisages several measures including the development of tourism connected with the pilgrimage.

(b) With a view to providing an elevating image of India's culture and promoting healthy and sustainable tourism, including pilgrim tourism, during the Tenth Five Year Plan, the Ministry of Tourism and Culture has drawn up proposals to develop hubs which synthetise the elements of culture, tourism and clean civic life.There would be at least one such hub in every State and Union Territory. Some of these hubs include pilgrim centres.

Besides, tourism circuits have also been taken up for development.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Udaigiri, Khandgiri have been identified in Orissa for integrated development.

Scheme for rejuvenation of culturally and historically significant places

1362. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested Government to include Hampi, Srigangapattinam, Belur and Halebid in the scheme of rejuvenation of culturally and historically significant towns similar to Varanasi and Madurai; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction to the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism and Culture is developing Hampi as one of the hubs in which elements of culture, tourism and clean civic life would be synthesised. Some programme of this nature has also been taken up in Varanasi. With regard to other towns, protected monuments are being looked after by the Archaeological Survey of India and they are being conserved/improved. The other matters pertaining to rejuvenation

of culturally significant cities are being looked after by the Ministry of Urban Development.

Conservation of Jain Monuments in Karnataka

1363. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has approached the Central Govemment for providing financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 20 crores for conservation of Jain monuments; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal and by when the decision is expected to be communicated to the State Government of Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Culture has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 206.49 lakhs to CPWD for undertaking developmental works in and around 11 unprotected Jain Monuments and ASI has been allocated Rs. 260.00 lakhs for renovation and conservation of 15 centrally protected Jain Monuments in Karnataka.

Tourism potential of India and China

1364. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians toured China in the year 2001 and 2002 *vis-a-vis* Chinese visited India during that period;

(b) the steps taken to persuade Indian Tour Operators to exploit tourism prospects of China; and

(c) the other action proposed to explore the tourism potentials of both countries to the maximum?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) As per the latest report published by the World Tourism Organisation, 159361 Indians visited China and 13901 Chinese visited India in the year 2001. Information for the year 2002 is not available.

(b) and (c) A special initiative has been taken to obtain 'Approved Destination Status' from China which will enhance inflow of tourists from